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REMARKS

In response to the final Office action of May 16, 2005, applicants asks that all claims be allowed in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-41 are pending, of which claims 1, 22, and 27 are independent.

Rejection of Claims 1-41 under Section 103

Claims 1-41[1] have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over MacNaughton (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,393) in view of Kumar (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,993). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-41 because neither MacNaughton, Kumar, or any combination of the references describes or suggests the subject matter of the independent claims 1, 22, and 27.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of retrieving electronic data from a communications system. The method includes, *inter alia*, establishing a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user. The method also includes initiating a first communication session over the connection associated with the first account of the user maintained by the host system; and automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system.

a. Procedural Issue: Office Action Filed To Address Features Added By Amendment

In support of the rejection, the Office action provided the exact same text and reasoning that was provided in the previous office action of September 21, 2004. <u>Compare</u> final Office action of May 16, 2005 at page 2, line 20 to page 4, line 5 <u>with</u> non-final Office action of September 21, 2004 at page 3, line 20 to page 5, line 5. In response, on January 19, 2005, Applicant respectfully notes that claim amendments and remarks. Specifically, in the response of January 19, 2005, applicant amended independent claim 1 to recite (with changes marked):

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[1] The Office action indicates that claims 1-27 are rejected. <u>See</u> Office action of May 16, 2005 at page 2, line 17. However, the text of the Office action includes claims 28-41. <u>See</u> Office action of May 16, 2005 at page 8, line 13 to page 12, line 17. Applicant understands that claims 1-41 have been rejected as unpatentable over MacNaughton in view of Kumar.

A method of retrieving electronic data from a communications system, the method comprising:

establishing a connection ~~to~~ between a client system and a host ~~the communications~~ system using a first account of a user;

initiating a first communication session over the connection associated with the first account of the user maintained by the host system; and

automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system.

The pending rejection fails to address this added claim language, notwithstanding the comments provided in the January 19 response directed to absence of these features in the cited references. Additionally, the pending final Office action also rejected amended independent claims 22 and 27 under the same rationale as in claim 1, even though applicant previously amended independent claims 22 and 27 to recite similar features to features recited in claim 1. See Office action of May 16, 2005 at page 8, lines 1-2 and 11-12.

As a consequence of failure to address these features of the claims, Applicant submits that the office action has not properly met the burden of making a prima facie case of obviousness in rejecting claims 1-41.

In another example, the rejection of claim 39 cites a portion of column 16 of Kumar for support. See Office action of May 16, 2005 at page 11, line 20 to page 12, line 4 (citing Kumar at col. 16, lines 10-25). Claim 39 depends on claim 1 and recites that the host system is a network access service provider that provides network access service to enable the user to access systems other than the host system, the first account of the user corresponds to a first screen name for an instant messaging service provided by the host system, and one of the one or more additional accounts of the user corresponds to an additional screen name for the instant messaging service provided by the host system. The cited portion of Kumar states in its entirety:

A summarization page module 91 is provided and adapted to organize and serve a WEB summary page to a user. Module 91, in some embodiments, may immediately push a WEB summary to a user, or module 91 may store such summarized pages for a user to access via a pull method, in which case a notification may be sent to the user alerting him of the summary page availability. Summarization module 91 includes an HTML renderer that is able to format data into HTML format for WEB page display. In this way, e-mail messages and the like may be presented as HTML text on a user's summarization page. Moreover, any summary data from any site may include an embedded hyperlink to that site. In this way, a user looking at an e-mail text in HTML may click on it and launch the

appropriate e-mail program. Other sites will, by default, be linked through the summary page.

Kumar at col. 16, lines 10-25. As is clearly shown by the reproduced text, the portion of Kumar cited in rejecting claim 39 does not disclose an instant messaging system or screen names, much less the features recited in dependent claim 39. This discussion of the shortcomings of the rejection of claim 39 is intended merely to illustrate the shortcomings of the Office action, and nothing in this reply should be construed as acquiescence with regard to other rejection of other unmentioned claims.

b. Substantive Issues: Applicant's Response to Examiner's Response to Arguments

In response to the applicant's argument that neither MacNaughton, Kumar, or any combination of the references describes or suggests the subject matter of the amended independent claims 1, 22, and 27, the Examiner responded that Kumar discloses automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system in Figure 2. The Examiner indicated that the one or more communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system is shown by the "additional web sites like mybank.com, mystocks.com, myshopping.com, mortgage.com, etc." shown in Figure 2. See Office action of May 16, 2005 at page 13, lines 11-13.

Kumar's Figure 2, however, "is an illustration of a personalized portal page as may be seen on a display monitor." See Kumar at col. 7, lines 16-21. Figure 2 itself identifies mybank.com, mystocks.com, myshopping.com, and mortgage.com as server names and describes the list of servers as exemplary destinations. See Kumar at col. 7, lines 26-29. As such, the list of server names in Figure 2 of Kumar discloses possible Internet servers that may accessed and does not disclose additional communication sessions. Moreover, Figure 2 also shows a list of user names and a list of passwords, where each user name and password are shown to correspond to a listed server, and are used to gain access to the identified server. See Kumar at col. 7, lines 39-50. Kumar discloses that each listing in Figure 2 may be a hyperlink to invoke the web page on the identified server. See Kumar at col. 7, lines 42-50. As such, Kumar's Figure 2 discloses a personalized portal page that enables a user to access an Internet

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server destination. Hence, Kumar's Figure 2 shows an alternative (i.e., a manual alternative) to automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system.

As noted by the Examiner, Kumar discloses that invoking a hyperlink may cause a transparent log-in function at one of the identified web sites and "provides access to any one of a number of servers on the Internet 13 such as servers 23, 25 and 27." See Office action of May 16, 2005 at page 13, line 17 to page 14, line 3. As such, the Examiner seems to concede that Kumar discloses additional accounts of the user being maintained at the web server on the Internet to which the portal page provides access. Thus, Kumar fails to remedy MacNaughton's failure to disclose automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system, as recited in the independent claims 1, 22 and 27.

For these reasons, and the reasons stated in the response to the previous non-final office action (shown below for convenient reference), applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-41.

c. Reproduction of Applicant's Arguments Previously Presented in January 19, 2005 Response to Office action of September 21, 2004

For convenient reference, the arguments presented in the January 19, 2005 response to the Office action of September 21, 2004 are shown below:

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over MacNaughton (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,393) in view of Kumar (U.S. Patent No. 6,278,993). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-27 because neither MacNaughton, Kumar, or any combination of the references describes or suggests the subject matter of the independent claims 1, 22, and 27.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of retrieving electronic data from a communications system. The method includes, *inter alia*, establishing a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user. The method also includes initiating a first communication session over the connection associated with the first account of the user maintained by the host system; and automatically initiating, over the same connection to

the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system.

MacNaughton discloses "a system and method for integrating an on-line service community with a foreign service such as the Internet World Wide Web." See MacNaughton at Abstract. The Office action concedes that MacNaughton does not explicitly show automatically initiating over the same connection one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user, as recited in original claim 1. See Office action of September 21, 2004 at page 3, line 26 to page 4, line 2. For this teaching, the Office action relies on Kumar. See Office action of September 21, 2004 at page 4, lines 7-18 citing Kumar at Fig. 2 and col. 12, lines 9-26.

Kumar discloses a search function that searches Internet sites and, in a preferred embodiment, the search function is provided by a subscription portal server. See Kumar at Abstract. In one implementation, Kumar discloses an Internet portal server 15 through which a user of an Internet appliance 17 is able to log-on and access one or more Internet servers 23, 25 and 27. See Kumar at FIG. 1 and col. 5, line 65 to col. 7, line 15. Each of the Internet servers 23, 25 and 27 are "hosted by various enterprises and subscribed to by a user operating appliance 17" and accessible through the Internet portal server 15 that connects to the Internet 13 through which the Internet servers 23, 25 and 27 are accessed. See Kumar at col. 6, lines 30 and 52-55. Kumar also discloses that the Internet portal server 15 provides Internet access services for individual subscribers and may be only accessible to a user based on an authenticated user name and password. See Kumar at col. 6, lines 15-17 and 42-44.

In Kumar's system, the Internet appliance 17 connects to the Internet portal server 15 through a telephone line or other type of an access line 19. See Kumar at col. 6, lines 35-40. The Internet portal server 15 of Kumar is connected to the Internet, through which Internet servers 23, 25 and 27 are accessible, using conventional equipment, included IP data routes, data switches, gateway routers. See Kumar at col. 6, lines 31-34. Once a user has been granted access to the Internet portal server 15, the Internet portal server 15 provides a personalized portal page that lists hyperlinks specifying URLs (Uniform Resource Locators) for destinations on servers 23, 25 and 27 that a user may access by manual selection of the appropriate hyperlink. See Kumar at col. 7, lines 17-43 and FIG. 2. When a user manually selects a hyperlink for

navigation to the destination associated with the hyperlink, the Internet portal server 15 invokes the hyperlink to navigate to the destination and provides a user name and password associated with the selected hyperlink. See Kumar at col. 7, line 62 to col. 8, line 6. See also Kumar at col. 12, lines 22-26. Hence, Kumar shows, in this implementation, a log-in to the selected destination that occurs on a destination system 23, 25 or 27 accessible to the Internet portal server 15 over the Internet 13. In other words, Kumar discloses an Internet portal server (15) that is capable of processing manual user requests to log into one or more additional accounts of the user that are located on destination servers other than the Internet portal server (15). Thus, Kumar uses login information to enable sessions between the Internet appliance 17 and each of several different destination servers, and, hence, Kumar does not disclose using login information to enable multiple sessions to the Internet portal server 15. Moreover, Kumar only discloses only one communication session using the single connection between the Internet appliance 17 and the Internet portal server 15.

This response assumes only for the sake of argument that Kumar's Internet appliance 17 corresponds to the client system recited in claim 1 and, because Kumar establishes a connection between the Internet appliance 17 and the Internet portal server 15 and claim 1 recites establishing a connection between a client system and a host system using a first account of a user, this response also assumes only for the sake of argument that Kumar's portal server 15 corresponds to the host system recited in claim 1. Under these assumptions for purpose of this response only, Kumar does not describe or suggest using login information to enable multiple sessions to the Internet portal server 15 (which is assumed to correspond to the host system recited in claim 1), and, hence, Kumar necessarily cannot describe or suggest automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system, recited in claim 1. Moreover, because Kumar only discloses only one communication session using the single connection between the Internet appliance 17 and the Internet portal server 15, Kumar necessarily cannot describe or suggest initiating over the same connection to the host system one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user, recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, this implementation of Kumar does not describe or suggest initiating over the same connection to the host system one or

more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the
user, as recited in claim 1.

In another implementation, Kumar discloses a browser that operates on a client system
and, when a user navigates to a destination that requires a secure log-in, provides log-in data that
is stored on the client system, and does so without accessing the personalized portal page stored
on the Internet server portal. See Kumar at col. 9, lines 9-21. Kumar does not explicitly disclose
whether, in this implementation, the destination is accessed through an intermediary server, such
as the Internet portal server or another type of Internet service provider server. If, in this
implementation, Kumar's Internet portal server or another Internet service provider server
provides the Internet access by which the destination system is accessed by the browser, for at
least the reasons discussed above, Kumar also fails to describe or suggest automatically initiating
over the same connection to the host system one or more additional communication sessions
associated with one or more additional accounts of the user, as recited in claim 1.

On the other hand, if there is no Internet service provider system in this implementation
of Kumar, Kumar's destination may correspond to the host system recited in claim 1. Even in
such a case, however, Kumar discloses only one communication session being established with
the host system, as well as the use of only one user account. Thus, this implementation of
Kumar discloses, at most, establishing a connection between a client system and a host system
using a first account of a user, and initiating a first communication session over the connection
associated with the first account of the user. Kumar, in this implementation, does not describe or
suggest automatically initiating over the same connection to the host system one or more
additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user,
as recited in claim 1.

In yet another implementation, Kumar discloses a search function that a user may invoke
from the personalized portal page on the Internet server portal in which the search function
searches one or more selected destinations listed on the personalized portal page according to
search criteria entered by the user. See Kumar at col. 9, lines 32-42. Here, too, Kumar discloses
accessing (here, searching) destination servers identified by the personalized portal page. For
least the reasons described above, this implementation of Kumar also fails to describe or suggest
automatically initiating over the same connection to the host system one or more additional

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communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user, as recited in claim 1.

Moreover, assuming for the sake of argument only that Kumar is somehow deemed to disclose enabling access to multiple accounts over a single connection to the host of those multiple accounts, Kumar does not disclose providing access to each of those multiple accounts in an automated fashion, as recited in claim 1.

Thus, Kumar fails to describe or suggest automatically initiating, over the same connection to the host system, one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user maintained by the host system, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, neither Kumar, MacNaughton, nor the combination of the two references describe or suggest automatically initiating over the same connection to the host system one or more additional communication sessions associated with one or more additional accounts of the user, as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-21.

Similarly to independent claim 1, claims 22 and 27 each recite similar features in the context of a computer-readable medium and an apparatus, respectively. Claims 2-21 and 23-26 depend from claims 1 or 22, respectively.

Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 22 and 27 and dependent claims 23-26 that depend from claim 22.

d. Claims 28-41

Each of claims 28-41 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. At least for the reasons of that dependency and the reasons noted above, applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claims 28-41.

Conclusion

As pointed out above, applicant submits that the Examiner has not properly made a prima facie case of obviousness. To be clear, several substantive points of distinction were noted in the January 19, 2005 response which again are reiterated in this response. Applicant wishes to

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understand how each is addressed by the cited art, or alternatively, to obtain withdrawal of rejections based on art. Moreover, Applicant asks that all claims be allowed.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

No fee is believed due. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 14, 2005
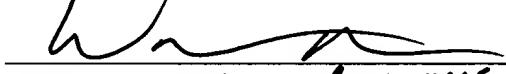
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